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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,630	10/01/2001	Jiang Liang	RD-29301	2277

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
GLOBAL RESEARCH
PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59
NISKAYUNA, NY 12309

EXAMINER

KASTLER, SCOTT R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1742

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/682,630

Applicant(s)

LIANG ET AL.

Examiner

Scott Kastler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 35-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 35-43 and 52-58 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 44 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 45-50 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

The supplemental declaration filed under 37 CFR 1.132 filed on 1/18/2005 is sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 35-51 based upon Reinacher.

Applicant's arguments, see the response, filed 1/18/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 35-51 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of the newly discovered references as expressed below. The finality of the last office action has been withdrawn in view of the newly advanced rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 44 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flinn et al. Flinn et al teaches an alloy of platinum and rhodium containing 21 wt% (12.29 at%) platinum and 79 wt% (87.70 at%) rhodium, in the alloy of example 5 on Table 2 for example, which meets all aspects of the above claims since the limitation that the alloy “comprises a microstructure essentially free of L12-structured phase at a temperature greater than about 1000 degrees C” would be inherently met by the alloy of Flinn et al since the alloy of Flinn et al contains a composition falling within the instantly claimed range, and in view of no disclosed particular processing steps for the claimed alloy, would reasonably be expected to also possess the same microstructure. Further, the term “comprises a microstructure” allows for a microstructure in

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which even only a small portion of the microstructure as a whole is free of an L12-structured phase. A microstructure which is made up of 90% L12-structured phase and only 10% of a non L12-structured phase would meet the requirements of the above claims for example.

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansen et al. Hansen et al, in Example VII, teaches an alloy comprising 14 wt% (7.9 at%) platinum, 85 wt% (91.4 at%) rhodium, and 1 wt% (.6 at%) tungsten, thereby meeting all requirements of the above claim, since the “comprising” language of the above claim allows for the inclusion of unnamed elements.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 35-43 and 52-58 are allowed at least because none of the cited prior art shows of fairly suggests the instantly recited alloy composition ranges, or the use of these compositions for forming an airfoil (with respect to claims 52-58) where the declaration and supplemental declarations filed by the applicant are sufficient to establish new and/or unexpected results arising from alloys within the instantly claimed ranges when compared to the cited prior art.

Claims 45-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Scott Kastler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

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